

Syllabus PHILOSOPHY 20A

Course Description

This course is designed to be an introduction to ancient Greek philosophy. After a brief survey of the so-called Pre-Socratic philosophers, the course will focus primarily on the philosophical positions central to the thought of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. The last two weeks of the course will be devoted to a short consideration of Hellenistic philosophy. The emphasis throughout the course will be on understanding, analyzing, and evaluating the various arguments put forward by these philosophers. The requirements for the course include a take home mid-term exam, one short paper and a final exam. There are no prerequisites required for the course.



Course Information, Evaluation and Schedule

- Instructor:** Chris Tennberg
South Hall 5718 | Office Hours: Monday (10:00am-12:00pm)
chris@tennberg.com
- TAs:** John Chandler
South Hall 5720 | Office Hours: Monday (3:00pm-5:00pm)
jchandler@umail.ucsb.edu
- Joe Lee
South Hall 5718 | Office Hours: Friday (10:00am-12:00pm)
josephlee@umail.ucsb.edu
- Tim Lewis
South Hall 5718 | Office Hours: Tuesday (11:00am-1:00pm)
tslewis@umail.ucsb.edu
- Lecture:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday @ Embarcadero Hall (9:00am-9:50am)
- Sections:** Monday, SH 5617 (10:00am-10:50am)
Monday, SH 5617 (11:00am-11:50am)
Monday, SH 1430 (1:00pm-1:50pm)
Tuesday, SH 5617 (11:00am-11:50am)
Wednesday, HSSB 1207 (1:00pm-1:50pm)
Friday, Phelps 1444 (12:00pm-12:50pm)

* *Note: some sections listed in the printed schedule have been cancelled.*

Website: <http://www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/websites/phil20A/>

Textbook: Reeve and Miller, eds. *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*, (Hackett, 2006). Available in the UCSB bookstore.

Grading:	Mid-Term exam	25%
	Short paper	35%
	Final exam	35%
	Participation	5%

NOTE: There will be no rescheduled final exams. If you take this course, then it is your responsibility to be in town on to take the final exam. The date and time for the final is TBA.

Course Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings (which may include turning in short written 'summaries'), attend course lectures and to participate in the course discussion sections. The assigned readings need to be completed before coming to lecture. The course readings are very important (in fact, some test questions will come directly from reading), but there is no substitute for lecture or section attendance. Most of the test material will come straight from the lectures, so attending greatly increases the likelihood of receiving good grades. For the most part, the TAs will review the material presented in lecture during the discussion sections, so they are also very valuable. You may attend whichever section you prefer, regardless of which you registered for. Just be sure to let your TA know what's going on. Borderline final grades may be determined in your favor if you have made a positive impression on the instructor and/or teaching assistant through regular attendance and participation.

Plagiarism and Cheating

The Philosophy Department takes this issue seriously. In other words, we will prosecute any offenses, seeking penalties ranging up to and including expulsion from the university. So don't risk it! Remember, it's also your responsibility to make sure that your work does not violate university policies about plagiarism and other academic cheating. If you need any help in understanding these standards or are in any doubt about whether your work for this course violates them, it is your responsibility to find out by checking with me.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Introduction to Ancient Philosophy

Week 1

Friday, September 26th – What is Ancient Philosophy?

The Pre-Socratics

Week 2

Monday, September 29th – From Myth to Philosophy

Wednesday, October 1st – The Milesians (i)

Friday, October 3rd – The Milesians (ii)

Week 3

Monday, October 6th – Heraclitus

Wednesday, October 8th – Parmenides

Friday, October 10th – The Pluralists (Empedocles, Anaxagoras and the Atomists)

Socrates and Plato

Week 4

Monday, October 13th – The Sophists

Wednesday, October 15th – Socrates and the Apology (i)

Friday, October 17th – Socrates and the Apology (ii)

Week 5

Monday, October 20th – Crito (**Mid-Term Due**)

Wednesday, October 22nd Euthyphro (i)

Friday, October 24th – Euthyphro (ii)

Week 6

Monday, October 27th – Meno

Wednesday, October 29th – The Theory of Forms

Friday, October 31st – Republic (i)

Week 7

Monday, November 3rd – Republic (ii)

Wednesday, November 5th – Republic (iii)

Friday, November 7th – Republic (iv)

Aristotle

Week 8

Monday, November 10th – Aristotle versus Plato

Wednesday, November 12th – Physics & Metaphysics (i)

Friday, November 14th – Physics & Metaphysics (ii)

Week 9

Monday, November 17th – Ethics (i)

Wednesday, November 19th – Ethics (ii)

Friday, November 21st – Ethics (iii) (**Paper Due**)

Hellenistic Philosophy

Week 10

Monday, November 24th – Three Schools of Thought (An Overview)

Wednesday, November 26th – Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)

Friday, November 28th – Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)

Week 11

Monday, December 1st – The Stoics

Wednesday, December 3rd – The Epicureans

Friday, December 5th – The Fear of Death (Last Day of Class)

Week 12

Monday, December 8th – Final Exam Review Session (8:00am-11:00am)

Thursday, December 11th – Final Exam (8:00am-11:00am)

** Note: This tentative schedule is simply a 'best-guess' at our rate of progress, not a cast-iron guarantee. As such, it may be subject to change as we proceed.*